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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 30 | Min 18 | Humidity 41% Mostly cloudy Sensex 82,814 | Nifty 25,571 | Gold 1,56,299 | Silver 2,50,020 | Dollar 90.95 | Euro 107.02 | GBP 122.60

NAMES REDACTED

Activists welcome top cop's circular to all Station Officers to keep names of rape and sexual assault victims, including POCSO cases, strictly confidential

PAGE 5

THEN THERE WERE 8

As Super 8s begin today, a complete breakdown on who meets whom and when; Australia make short work of Oman

PAGE 10

Central Pollution Board panel confirms several vegetables have much higher levels of lead than permissible limit — ivy gourd, leafy greens, brinjal and other veggie samples collected from city markets contain too much of the heavy metal

EAT YOUR GREENS. AT YOUR OWN RISK

18 pesticide residues detected in 10 samples of the 72 collected

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It is official... Vegetables sold in Bengaluru are contaminated with heavy metals, especially lead.

Veggies such as beans, gourds, beetroot, cabbage, capsicum, chilli (the bigger ones used in bajji), cucumber, turnip, leafy greens, and squash, found in various markets in the city, have much higher levels of lead than the permissible limit set by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

This has been highlighted by a joint committee constituted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to ascertain contamination of vegetables in Bengaluru with heavy metals and pesticides.

The committee, following a comprehensive analysis of 72 vegetable samples collected last year, has found 19 samples with high levels of lead.

For instance, the observed lead concentration in little gourd (ivy gourd) was found to be as high

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

"Observed lead concentration in little gourd (ivy gourd) was found to be as high as 1.75mg/kg, which exceeds the FSSAI-approved limit of 0.1mg/kg. While the permissible limit of lead in leafy green vegetables is 0.3 mg/kg, it was found to be as high as 1.68mg/kg in some markets

— From the report

Dent in Gandhi Bazar: Let that sink in

Cobblestones laid on footpath and on road have already collapsed though agency spent Rs 28 cr to redevelop area a year ago

KAUSHIK JN

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It seems like just yesterday that Gandhi Bazar, one of the prominent streets in Basavanagudi Assembly constituency in South Bengaluru, was redeveloped at an estimated cost of Rs 28 crore. While the decision to redevelop Gandhi Bazar itself had drawn flak from residents at the time, the authorities completed the task. But unfortunately, just a year has gone by and the cobblestones laid have already started collapsing.

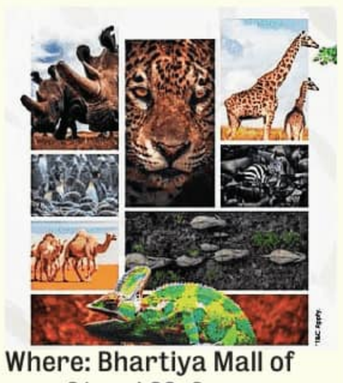
Motorists, especially cab drivers, can feel the clickety-clack as they pass by on the 800-mt stretch due to broken or sunken cobble stones placed between concrete slabs on the road. Many motorists complain that it would be difficult for them to commute on this road if the broken cobble stones are not replaced. "I never expected Gandhi Bazar to be in a pathetic condition as the then BBMP spent crores of rupees to redevelop it a year ago. I blame the authorities concerned for not ensuring quality in the work," said a motorist.

Coming down heavily on the then BBMP (now GBA) engineers and also failing to maintain it properly, Basavanagudi

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Wild side



Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru is hosting 'Enter the Wild,' an experiential event in collaboration with Animal Planet. The event combines entertainment and education through workshops and games. **Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru; When: February 21 and 22, 2 pm**

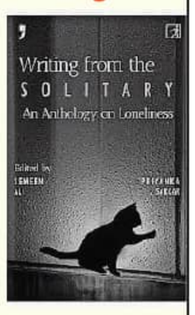
02 Immersive experience

The Sixth Sense, a multidisciplinary immersive festival, conceptualised and developed by Swordfish, the creators of Echoes of Earth festival, brings together art, music, technology, and nature to rekindle connection with the natural world. **Where: Alembic City, Whitefield; When: Until Feb 22**

03 Narratives in focus

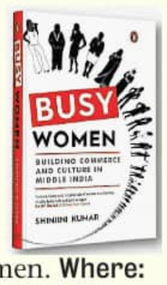
Alliance University will host the 2026 edition of the Alliance Literary Festival, ALF, and Alliance ONE, bringing together leading voices from cinema, public life, journalism, law and performance. **Where: Alliance University, Alliance School of Liberal Arts, Anekal; When: Until February 21, 9 am to 9.30 pm**

04 Literary realm



Atta Galatta is bringing a session inviting participants to explore how isolation can be transformed into powerful literary expression. The workshop focuses on the nuances of solitude and loneliness as creative catalysts. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: February 21, 4 pm**

05 Life on the go



Atta Galatta is hosting the launch of 'Busy Women' by Shinjini Kumar, an insightful and engaging exploration of contemporary India beyond its metropolitan centres, based on extensive travel across thirty cities and conversations with over 300 women. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: Feb 21, 6.30 pm**

Circumstances no bar on road to success

Overcoming financial hardships, daughter of auto driver and flower vendor clears judicial exam and is one her way to become civil judge, emerging as testament to discipline and determination

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

From her father's auto rickshaw to the corridors of the court, Ragini L has scripted a story of grit and quiet determination. The daughter of an auto driver from Hebbagodi near Electronic City has secured the 48th rank in the Civil Judge recruitment conducted by the High Court, proving that resolve can outpace circumstance. Born to Lakshman, an auto driver, and Manjula, a flower vendor, Ragini grew up in modest surroundings in Tirupalya. After earning her law degree from Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Law College, she began practising as an advocate, all the while preparing for the judicial exams. She cleared the exam on her third attempt, fulfilling her father's long held dream despite financial challenges at home.

The Civil Judge recruitment process included a written examination in December 2025 followed by interviews in January 2026. Ragini's success stands out not only for her rank but for the journey behind it, marked by persistence and sacrifice. Her family says the achievement is the result of years of disciplined effort and belief that education could transform their lives.

Among other young achievers is H Shashank from Bengaluru, who cleared the exam at the age of 26 in his very first attempt. From high school through pre university, Shashank supported his education by delivering newspapers. He completed his BCom from Vijaya Degree College and later pursued law at BMS Law College before starting practice as an advocate. His early success in the judicial exam marks a significant milestone in a journey shaped by hard work and self reliance.

Young achievers shine in Civil Judge recruitment list, representing journey shaped by hard work

In another remarkable feat, 25-year-old Sumanth S Naik from Sirsi secured the second rank in the Karnataka Judicial Examination 2025 in his first attempt. The son of a government prosecutor, he completed his schooling in Sirsi before studying law at Karnataka Law University in Hubballi. He is currently working as a junior under a senior advocate at the High Court in Bengaluru. Speaking about his achievement, Sumanth said earning the opportunity to become a judge at such a young age was a matter of immense happiness.

Together, these young law graduates represent a new generation entering the judiciary, but it is Ragini's story, rising from a household sustained by auto and flower sales to the bench, that captures the heart of the city.

Netherlands PM lauds Bengaluru's tech-driven traffic management

At a time when Bengaluru's traffic congestion continues to face global criticism, with the city ranked as the second most congested in the world in 2025, the Netherlands Prime Minister Dick Schoof on Friday said he was surprised by the city's coordinated and technology-driven traffic management system, adding that his country is keen to adopt India's AI-driven health monitoring solutions. On Friday, Dick Schoof addressed the media at the Four Seasons Hotel Bengaluru. During his brief visit to the city, he said he toured the Philips Innovation Campus and the Traffic Management Centre to review the Bengaluru Traffic Police's ASTraM. He also interacted with faculty members and students at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

According to traffic police officials, the Prime Minister was briefed on the advanced, technology-driven systems implemented to enhance road safety, streamline urban mobility, and ensure efficient enforcement.

The Prime Minister remarked that he was surprised by the vast amount of information available at the Traffic Management Centre and the way open data is integrated with surveillance systems. Speaking to the media, he said, "By combining CCTV management with advanced analytics, the authorities are able not only to monitor what is happening in real time but also to forecast traffic conditions not just for a day, but even for a week ahead. This will strengthen prediction and enable proactive preventive measures." He also underlined the need for stronger collaboration between India and the Netherlands in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

— BMB

Board exams on the cards for Classes 5 and 8?

The School Education Department is considering introducing board exams for students of Classes 5 and 8 studying under the State syllabus, in a bid to improve learning outcomes in primary schools. Officials believe that the existing no detention policy has led to a casual approach towards exams among students, a concern that has also surfaced in internal department surveys. The proposal was discussed at a recent departmental meeting, with the view that a common board examination could help maintain academic standards at the foundational level.

The state had in fact issued an order in 2022 to conduct board exams for these classes, but private schools challenged the move and the matter is now pending before the Supreme Court. Senior officials said any further step will be taken only after the case is resolved. **— BMB**

Solar power to light up hostels across Karnataka

In a major push towards cutting power costs and tackling frequent outages, the Karnataka Backward Classes Welfare Department has decided to install solar panels in its hostels across the state. The move will initially cover 1,644 hostels that operate in their own buildings, out of a total 2,659 hostels accommodating over 2.5 lakh students. At present, the department spends nearly Rs 2.75 crore every month on electricity for these facilities. By shifting to solar energy under the RESCO model, officials estimate savings of nearly 30 per cent on power bills, translating to around Rs 82 lakh per month. An official said, "Under the proposed model, private players will be given rooftop space free of cost to install and maintain solar panels, in return for supplying electricity to the hostels at no charge. Any surplus power generated can be sold commercially. This will allow the government to avoid upfront capital investment." **— BMB**

BMRCL mulls allowing sealed liquor bottles on metro

In a move that could raise a few eyebrows, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is considering allowing passengers to carry sealed liquor bottles on Namma Metro trains, on the lines of the Delhi Metro model. The proposal was discussed at a recent board meeting and has reportedly received approval in principle, though it may take time before the rule is formally implemented. Sources said the idea is to introduce the facility once the Metro's airport line connecting to Kempegowda International Airport becomes fully operational in the next couple of years. At present, liquor is listed under inflammable items in the Metro's prohibited category, with 58 items barred across eight groups including weapons and explosives. However, officials pointed out that there is no specific reason for banning sealed bottles, especially when consumption inside trains is already regulated under general public conduct rules. **— BMB**

Traffic restrictions in Nagawara due to road work

As per a traffic advisory issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic East Division), all types of vehicular movements will be prohibited for the next 30 days, starting from February 20, on Nagawara Main Road due to white topping work conducted by BBMP. Vehicles heading towards Shivajinagar will be temporarily restricted from going onto Nagawara Main Road (from Nagawara Junction to Narendra Tent Junction). The Deputy Commissioner has suggested alternative routes to maintain smooth flow of traffic. Vehicles coming from Thanisandra heading to Shivajinagar can take a left turn at Nagawara Junction and proceed to Nagawara Outer Ring Road and Hennur Junction. Other routes suggested are right turns at Siddappa Reddy Junction, BDA Junction, and a left turn near Narendra Tent Junction to reach Shivajinagar via Tannery Road. **— BMB**

Hoysala cops act in time to stop 2 suicide attempts

Bengaluru Police averted potential tragedies in two separate incidents on Tuesday night, highlighting the responsiveness of the city's Hoysala patrol units in handling mental health crises. In the first case, a woman named Swati, a resident of Ibbaluru, contacted the police in distress and expressed her intention to end her life. Officers from Hoysala 189 quickly responded and began tracking her movements after she said she was heading towards Bellandur Lake. Despite initial difficulty in communicating with her, the officers located Swati, counselled her on the spot, and ensured her safety. She was later taken to the Bellandur Police Station, stabilised, and safely handed over to her family members.

In a similar incident, the Hoysala 85 patrol unit responded to a 46-year-old woman who was attempting suicide due to physical and mental health-related distress. The officers acted swiftly, tracked her location, and intervened in time. After counselling her and informing her family, the police also facilitated medical assistance, ensuring she received the care she needed before returning home safely.

With mental health pressures rising in Bengaluru, the police continue to urge residents to seek help, reinforcing public trust in emergency response systems. **—BMB**

RTI activist in dock over 'fake' clips

The Bengaluru City Cyber Crime Police have arrested RTI activist Snehamayi Krishna on charges of allegedly fabricating documents and circulating manipulated voice clips on social media to defame a senior government official. Krishna, who was the original complainant in the MUDA land allotment case and had earlier accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others of involvement, was taken into custody by the Cyber Crime Division in Bengaluru on Friday.

The arrest follows allegations made by Krishna claiming that former MUDA Commissioner DB Natesh had paid bribes worth crores of rupees to secure a promotion. He had also submitted complaints to the Enforcement Directorate and the Income Tax Department on Wednesday, alleging large-scale cash transactions in Mysuru.

Acting on a complaint filed by DB Natesh, a senior KAS officer and former Commissioner of the Mysuru Urban Development Authority, police registered a case on February 18, 2026. Investigators allege that Krishna created fabricated documents, manipulated audio clips, and used photographs targeting the complainant, circulating them through his Facebook account as part of a defamatory campaign.

Police have seized the devices, investigation is ongoing.

—BMB

Attack on cop: Man gets 7 years in jail

A city court has sentenced Mohammed Saleem to seven years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹25,000 for attempting to murder police personnel during an incident reported in 2021. The case was registered at Govindapura Police Station after a violent attack on officers who had intercepted a suspicious vehicle.

According to police, acting on credible information, a team intercepted a car traveling along the Ring Road service road from Hennur Signal towards Nagawara. The vehicle was stopped near the Forest Office at HBR Layout. During the interception, the accused allegedly tried to escape and attacked police personnel with a knife in his possession, prompting the registration of a case on June 24, 2021, under charges of attempt to murder along with relevant provisions of the Arms Act.

The investigation was conducted under the supervision of then DCP (East Division) Dr Sharanappa SD, IPS.

Then DJ Halli Police Inspector Kiran Kumar B Nayak led the probe, gathered substantial evidence, and filed a detailed charge sheet. **—BMB**

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Ganja from Bangkok busted at airport

Bengaluru Customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru intercepted two passengers arriving from Bangkok on February 19 and seized 1.9 kilograms of hydroponic ganja concealed in their cabin baggage. The contraband, estimated to be worth around ₹66.5 lakh in the illegal market, was reportedly hidden inside food packets to avoid detection during routine screening. Acting on suspicion, officers carried out a detailed examination of the luggage and discovered the narcotic substance carefully packed within food items. Authorities later confirmed on X that the seized material was hydroponic ganja, a high-potency form of cannabis grown using advanced cultivation techniques. The accused have been arrested under NDPS Act and a probe is on. **—BMB**

Frazer Town's road to nowhere stirs rage

Holy month rush raises alarm over unfinished civic works and hazardous walkways

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Frazer Town have raised serious concerns over the prolonged roadworks on Mosque Road, alleging delays, uneven progress, and an increase in accidents due to unfinished work and scattered debris.

The civic works, including white-topping and underground utility upgrades, began nearly one and a half years ago. While parts of the stretch have seen visible progress, residents say large sections remain incomplete, causing daily inconvenience and safety risks.

Umera Faisal, a resident of Mosque Road, said the delay has tested the patience of locals. "It has been almost one and a half years since the work started on Mosque Road. First, they began the gutter work, which took almost a year because it was not carried out continuously. We were told the funds had run out. We tolerated that. Then, suddenly, white-topping work began. They started with Mosque Road and then MM Road. However, MM Road, where most of the restaurants are located, was completed much faster," she said.

Loose gravel and unfinished footpaths dominate parts of Mosque Road in Frazer Town, forcing commuters to tread cautiously amid prolonged infrastructure upgrades and mounting frustration

She further alleged that commercial areas were being prioritised over residential pockets. "Near the hotels on Mosque Road, work started just two to three weeks ago and the footpath is already complete. Customers' cars are parked there. But the work in Frazer Town, which began one and a half years ago, is still pending. Mud is scattered everywhere and accidents are occurring almost every day. One person told me his aunt was badly injured and they had to spend nearly ₹8 lakh on her treatment," she added.

Residents pointed out that construction debris left on the roads has made commuting dangerous, especially for two-wheeler riders and pedestrians. They said that while development was welcomed, the slow pace and lack of coordination have caused unnecessary hardship.

Residents say the timing of the delay is particularly worrying as it is also Ramzan. Mosque Road and

Residents recount drainage delays, halted labour, and sudden contractor shifts that deepened inconvenience across the bustling locality

the surrounding areas witness heavy footfall during the holy month, especially in the evenings, with people visiting mosques, eateries, and shopping outlets. "During Ramzan, the crowd multiplies. With incomplete roads, dug-up stretches, and debris, it will become very difficult for pedestrians, elderly people, and children," a resident said.

Social activist Yasir Mohammed acknowledged the challenges involved in executing the project. "Mosque Road has its own challenges, as we all want to save the trees; they should not be harmed. Then there is traffic, which cannot be stopped," he said.

However, he added that significant progress had been made. "Even then, 95 per cent of the roadwork is complete and 70 per cent of the footpath work is complete. No doubt the one-month extension given to them has expired, and the contractor has asked for another month," Yasir said.

Parked heavy vehicles crushing footpaths

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Heritage Residents Welfare Association Secretary Guruprasad RK said the then BBMP engineers did not focus on the quality. "Not just the cobblestones placed on the road between concrete slabs but also those on the footpaths are broken. There is no one to monitor or keep a vigil on trucks that remain parked on the footpath. Cobble stones on the footpaths are broken due to the movement of heavy trucks. I have tried to complain to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) engineers but they said that the department concerned is yet to hand over Gandhi Bazar to them for maintenance," said Guruprasad.

Krishna P, a resident, said the Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) engineers have to take measures to maintain Gandhi Bazar by replacing broken cobble stones and fixing other problems. "It is quite shocking to come across broken cobble stones. The authorities spent a huge amount but did not bother to ensure quality. The broken cobblestones may become a hurdle for smooth movement of vehicular traffic on this road in future if the problems are not fixed without any delay," he said.

A truck parked on the footpath in Gandhi Bazar

₹5 lakh bounty on mastermind

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday filed a second supplementary charge sheet against three additional accused in the 2023 Bengaluru prison radicalisation case linked to the banned outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The agency has intensified efforts to trace Junaid Ahmed, a suspected LeT operative believed to be the mastermind of a wider conspiracy to destabilise the city. A reward of ₹5 lakh has been announced for information leading to his arrest.

In its latest charge sheet, filed from NIA headquarters in New Delhi, the agency named Anees Fathima, Chan Pasha A and Dr Nagaraj S under provisions of the IPC, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Explosive Substances Act, the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Karnataka Prisons Act. Earlier, nine accused, including absconder Junaid Ahmed, were chargesheeted after the NIA took over the case from the Bengaluru City Police in October 2023.

The case dates back to July 2023, when arms, ammunition and digital devices were seized from habitual offenders allegedly plotting terror activities aimed at undermining India's sovereignty. Investigators said the conspiracy included plans to facilitate the escape of terror convict T. Naseer, an accused in the 2008 Bengaluru serial blasts case, while he was being escorted from prison to court.The Central Crime Branch first uncovered the suspected module, arresting five individuals and seizing grenades, pistols, ammunition and communication devices. Investigations remain ongoing as efforts continue to trace the absconding suspect.

— BMB

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Sweeping shortfall

Sahakarnagar

Poor street sweeping and waste clearance on 12th Main, Sahakarnagar, for months have left the area unclean, with officials citing shortages of manpower and vehicles.

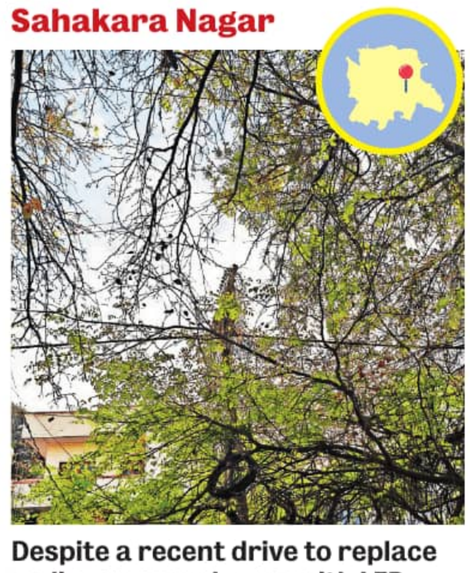
Garbage pile-up

Marathahalli

Road cleaning in the Spice Garden area of Marathahalli has reportedly stopped, with heaps of garbage and silt accumulating, and residents urging GBA East to act.

Maintenance failure

Sahakara Nagar



Despite a recent drive to replace sodium vapour lamps with LED lights, a decades-old tube light at No. 1461, B Block, 12th Main, Sahakara Nagar, remains unchanged, even after a complaint to the grievance cell, prompting calls for immediate action.

Sexual assault: Top cop orders station officers to keep victims' names hidden

Circular underscores need to protect identity of victims in line with SC directive, urges measures to ensure details are private

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Circular also highlights that FIR or chargesheet with names or identity of victims must not be available for public

Child rights activist says such proactive measures help create safer environment for children by strengthening privacy protections and fostering their overall wellbeing and empowerment in society

Alarmed by some police officials' failure to follow the Supreme Court's mandatory guidelines on protecting the identity of rape and sexual assault victims, including POCSO cases, Karnataka's Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG & IGP) has issued a circular directing all Station Officers to keep victims' names strictly confidential. The circular issued on February 16 supplements the earlier circular dated January 15, 2019, on the same issue.

Notably, the Supreme Court, in its judgement in Nipun Saxena vs Union of India in 2018, laid down mandatory guidelines to ensure the identity of rape and sexual assault victims (including POCSO cases) is kept strictly confidential. The apex court prohibited the publishing of victim's name, address, or identifying details in media or social media, even if deceased, to protect their dignity.

"Despite issuing a circular (No 1024) directing all Station Officers to follow the Supreme Court's guidelines while registering the First Information Report (FIR), it is found that some Station Officers and Investigation Officers are disclosing the names of sexual assault and rape victims. Because of this lapse, there are chances of courts passing strictures against police officers. The Station Officers and the Investigation Officers have to ensure the names of victims are strictly confidential by mentioning that the victims' names are changed in the FIRs," the circular read.

Dr MA Saleem, DG & IGP, directed the Station Officers to register the complaint with victims' names, substitute those names in the FIR to ensure confidentiality, and forward the report along with the complaint copy and the anonymised names in a sealed cover to the court. "Take measures to ensure that FIRs with the names of sexual and rape victims including POCSO cases are not available for public. No FIR or chargesheet with the names or identity of victims must be available for public on digital portals," the circular read.

Welcoming the circular, Nagasimha G Rao, child rights activist, said that according to Article 16 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), every child has the right to protection of his/her privacy and this includes safeguards against arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family life, home, correspondence, as well as protection from unlawful attacks on their honour and reputation and the law must actively protect children from such violations.

He commended the government's move as highly positive, noting that it is stepping forward to uphold and champion this important right. He further said that by prioritising children's privacy in both policy and practice, authorities demonstrate a genuine commitment to respecting children's dignity and autonomy, in line with international human rights standards. He opined that such proactive measures help create a safer environment where children can grow, express themselves, and communicate freely — whether through personal thoughts, online interactions, or family matters — without unwarranted intrusion. "This not only aligns with global obligations under the UNCRC but also contributes to building trust between children, families, and the State. Ultimately, strengthening privacy protections for children fosters their overall wellbeing and empowerment in society," said Rao.

B'luru North registers over 1,200 complaints under 'Phone-in' programme

Under the weekly Commissioner Phone-in programme launched in September last year, Bengaluru North City Corporation registered 1,254 complaints so far, out of which 865 cases have been resolved while 280 remain pending. On February 20, 2026, a fresh batch of 77 complaints were lodged.

Out of the 77 complaints registered, 35 cases were regarding road maintenance, while 16 cases were about waste management, highlighting the persistent urban infrastructure challenges in North Bengaluru.

To process the grievances at ground level, the Commissioner has announced the 10th edition of the Walkaluru Footpath Walk on February 22, 2026, which is a citizen-led initiative from late 2024.

The Walkaluru model fosters direct official and citizen collaboration, which sheds light on the existing infrastructural blockages plaguing the division, ensuring a better approach towards ongoing grievances faced by citizens. **–BMB**

Prompt completion of civic works urged in review meeting

In a review meeting conducted by the Commissioner of Bengaluru East City Corporation, the progress of ongoing development works was discussed, reinforcing accountability. The discussion revolved around completion of ongoing civic and drainage works. Installation of signboards at all entry roads was urged to mark BECC limits. It was further emphasised that a proposal will be submitted for developing software to track the real-time physical progress of ongoing projects.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

EMERALD WATER MATRIX

Our reader shares a tranquil view of the Ponmudi Dam reservoir in Kerala's Idukki district, where lush green hills gently embrace the waters. Built across the Panniyar River, a tributary of the Periyar, the scene reflects a soothing harmony between engineering and nature capturing a moment of calm amid the Western Ghats' timeless beauty.

The picture was clicked by reader
NJ Ravi Chander

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Blooms brighten B'luru days, but add to pourakarmikas' burden

Tabebuia rosea transforms the city into a floral spectacle while residents and sanitation workers navigate slippery petals, extra cleaning and seasonal challenges

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Between honking traffic, Metro work and the daily rush that defines Bengaluru, spring has quietly painted the city in shades of pink, white and yellow. The Tabebuia rosea trees, now in full bloom, have transformed roadsides, parks, lake stretches, apartment complexes and office campuses into postcard frames. With branches heavy with flowers and hardly a leaf in sight, several streets resemble a scene straight out of Japan's cherry blossom season. From Cubbon Park to Lalbagh, from Jayanagar to HSR Layout and Whitefield, entire avenues are wrapped in colour, drawing residents and tourists who posed for photographs before heading back to their routines.

What looks picturesque quickly becomes slippery and messy, as thick layers of flowers require repeated clearing to keep walkways safe and clean.

Originally native to Mexico and parts of North America, these trees were introduced to Bengaluru during the British era in the late nineteenth century. Over time, they adapted seamlessly to the city's climate and today feel like an inseparable part of its landscape. The blooming begins in the last week of December, but February is when the spectacle peaks, with trees almost completely covered in flowers just before the onset of summer. Social media feeds are flooded with reels and early morning photoshoots as youngsters gather under canopies of pink.

Yet, beneath this visual delight lies a quieter, more demanding reality. As the flowers fall in thick layers, footpaths, driveways and residential entrances are carpeted in petals that quickly turn soggy and slippery. For many homemakers, especially in independent houses and smaller apartment blocks, the day now begins with sweeping heaps of fallen blooms. "It looks very beautiful when you step out," says Vaidehi G, a resident of Jayanagar. "But within hours the entire frontage is covered. If we do not clear it immediately, it becomes messy and insects gather."

"People come, take photos and leave. By afternoon, the petals dry or get crushed by vehicles. We have to sweep the same stretch two or three times a day," says Muniyamma. Another civic worker said the flowers stick to the road surface and clog stormwater drains. "It is beautiful to see, no doubt. But cleaning it is not easy. We need more hands during this season," she adds.

The contrast is striking. On one side, Bengaluru glows under arches of pink blossoms, offering rare moments of calm and colour in a crowded metropolis. On the other, the very same beauty demands patience, labour and persistence from those who keep the city liveable. The season, however, is brief. For a few weeks every year, the Tabebuia rosea reminds Bengalureans that nature can both charm and challenge in equal measure.

DID YOU KNOW?

Scientists have discovered the skull of Tyrannoroter heberti in Nova Scotia, dating to about 307 million years ago, making it one of the oldest known plant-eating land vertebrates. The animal, part of a group called microsaurs, resembled a reptile but is not classified as one. Estimated to be about 12 inches long with a stocky build, it lived during the Carboniferous Period among early tetrapods, which were ancestors of modern amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds. Its triangle-shaped skull featured large cheek muscles and specialized teeth designed to crush and grind tough plant material, indicating advanced herbivorous adaptations. Researchers used CT scans to reveal conical teeth on the palate and a robust jaw structure suited for processing vegetation. The discovery shows that herbivory emerged earlier than previously believed, highlighting how terrestrial ecosystems began developing plant-based food chains much sooner. Scientists suggest insect-eating may have been a transitional step toward plant consumption, helping tetrapods acquire gut microbes needed to digest plants and occupy new ecological niches. The find provides critical insight into early dietary evolution and the rapid diversification of vertebrates adapting to complex terrestrial environments. **— Reuters**

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PIB Fact Check dismisses viral claim about IAF helicopter capture in Manipur

Claim: Social media posts claimed Manipur freedom fighters captured an Indian Air Force helicopter from a Manipur base and that IAF personnel fled, suggesting a breakdown of security infrastructure.
Fact: PIB Fact Check confirmed the claim is fake, stating no helicopter was captured, no personnel fled, and the viral content is misinformation intended to mislead and create panic.

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) on Wednesday dismissed as "fake" a viral social media claim alleging that so-called "Manipur freedom fighters" had captured an Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter from an air base in Manipur and that IAF personnel had fled the area out of fear. The claim, which circulated widely across platforms including X, alleged that an IAF helicopter had been seized from an IAF base in the violence-hit state and that security personnel had abandoned their positions.

The unverified posts attempted to portray a breakdown of security infrastructure and suggested that armed groups had taken control of military assets — a claim now categorically rejected by authorities. Fact-checking the viral content, the PIB issued a clarification on X, stating that no such incident had taken place.

PIB posted on X: "Claim: Social media posts claiming that Manipur freedom fighters have reportedly captured an Indian Air Force helicopter from an IAF base in Manipur, and that IAF personnel have fled the area out of fear. #PIBFactCheck: This claim is #fake. No such incident has occurred." The Press Information Bureau's Fact Check unit has recently intensified efforts to debunk false and misleading claims related to defence matters, countering misinformation with verified inputs. Earlier, on October 31 last year, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) Fact Check unit identified a digitally altered video circulating on social media through Pakistani propaganda accounts, falsely attributing statements to Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh, the Commander of the South Western Army. The fake video claims that Lt Gen Singh criticised the Indian Army's exercises as "political optics to boost the image for the Bihar elections." The PIB Fact Check unit clarified that the video is fake and AI-generated, and that Lt Gen Manjinder Singh has not made any such claim.

Manipur Post
@ManipurPost5
BREAKING
Manipur freedom fighters have reportedly captured an Indian Air Force helicopter from an IAF base in Manipur. Personnel of IAF have fled the area amid fear.
Armed fighters in Manipur are taking control of multiple areas amid tensions ongoing.
FAKE
FAKE
FAKE
0:21

In the original video, Lt Gen Singh is heard discussing the Indian Army's preparedness and training, emphasising the importance of night training and technological advancements. In the original video, recorded in Bikaner, Rajasthan, Lt Gen Singh can be heard saying, "The Indian Army is following the political direction of the 'New Normal', under which any terror act on the country will be considered an 'act of war'. The military has to prepare for any such activities. A lot of technologies and capabilities have been introduced for this. Our focus is on maximum night training; hence, we are carrying out 70% of the training at night and 30% during the day." PIB further added that Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh has not made any such statement and that the AI-generated fake video is being circulated to mislead people and create distrust against the Indian Armed Forces. **— ANI**

Full-fledged trial needed in 'crime thriller' of a bank fraud

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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The Karnataka High Court has refused to quash a cheating and cybercrime FIR registered against four individuals accused of duping a businessman of Rs 7.15 crore by allegedly fabricating a digital trail that made it appear as though 225 crore had been credited to his bank account. Describing the case as resembling a "crime thriller", the court held that the allegations disclose a prima facie case warranting a full-fledged trial.

Justice M Nagaprasanna was hearing petitions filed by the accused seeking to set aside the FIR registered for offences under Sections 419 (cheating by personation), 420 (cheating), 465 (forgery), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code, along with Section 66D of the Information Technology Act.

The case

According to the prosecution, the complainant, a businessman intending to establish a sugar factory, was in search of substantial financial assistance. In October 2017, he visited a tile showroom in Indiranagar, Bengaluru, where he was introduced to certain persons who allegedly assured him that they could arrange a loan of Rs 225 crore from the State Bank of India's Corporate Finance Branch.

The accused allegedly demanded a 7% commission on the proposed loan amount. The complainant agreed to the terms. In January 2018, an account was opened in his name with the bank. Soon thereafter, he

received alerts indicating that Rs 49 lakh had been credited to his account. He also received email transaction alerts from a website styled as "sbicf.co.in," which allegedly informed him that Rs 115 crore and subsequently Rs 110 crore had been credited, reflecting a total balance of Rs 225.49 crore.

The prosecution claims that the website was fictitious and created to resemble the official platform of the State Bank of India. It is further alleged that one-time passwords (OTPs) and WhatsApp messages were generated to lend credibility to the illusion that the funds had indeed been transferred.

Believing that the loan had been disbursed, the complainant allegedly paid Rs 7.15 crore — representing 50% of the agreed commission — to the accused. However, when he physically approached the bank to verify the transactions, he discovered that no such funds had been credited to his account. An FIR was subsequently registered.

In a strongly worded order, Justice Nagaprasanna observed, "The complaint itself is a document of striking detail. It narrates, step by step, how a fictitious banking edifice was erected to lull the complainant into a false sense of security; how a counterfeit digital infrastructure masquerading as the State Bank of India was employed; and how the complainant was induced to part with enormous sums of money."

Calling the episode "akin to a crime thriller or a crime pot boiler," the judge remarked:

"The accused/perpetrators of cybercrime have created a fake website of State Bank of India and have managed to hack the website of State Bank of India to generate OTP to make the complainant believe that he has, in fact, received the amount to his account; again, hacked the website of State Bank of India to show the balance in the account of the complainant as Rs 225 crores and secured the commission from the hands of the complainant at Rs 7.15 crores."

Rejecting the contention that the dispute was merely civil in nature, the court held that the allegations pointed to a concerted conspiracy. It observed that the offences under Sections 120B, 406, 419 and 420 IPC were prima facie attracted, as the complainant was allegedly induced to part with Rs 7.15 crore without any genuine disbursal of funds, suggesting dishonest intention from the outset.

Referring to the charge sheet, the court said, "The investigation has revealed not an isolated lapse, but a concerted conspiracy… The role attributed to each of the accused is neither vague nor incidental… They strike at the heart of public trust in banking systems and digital infrastructure."

'Allowing untreated sewage into lakes is criminal act'

IN HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that allowing untreated sewage to flow into lakes is not merely a civic lapse but can constitute a criminal act. Observing that such conduct strikes at the heart of environmental protection, the court said contamination of water bodies undermines ecological balance and poses serious risks to public health.

The decision came while the court was hearing a petition filed by a residential association seeking to quash criminal proceedings initiated against it. The case related to the alleged diversion of sewage through a pipeline into a storm water drain that ultimately connected to a nearby lake. The association had challenged the continuation of the criminal case, arguing against the charges brought by authorities.

Refusing to interfere, the bench underscored that lakes serve a critical role in maintaining groundwater levels and supporting urban ecosystems, especially in cities like Bengaluru. The court noted that any act that pollutes these water bodies has wider consequences for the community and may infringe upon citizens' right to a clean and healthy environment.

The court further observed that provisions under the Indian Penal Code dealing with water pollution and public nuisance could be attracted in such cases. It made it clear that responsibility cannot be evaded simply because local permissions may have been granted or because the discharge occurred through existing drainage infrastructure.

Directing authorities to identify and act against those responsible for contaminating lakes and storm water drains, the High Court stressed that accountability is essential to preserve environmental integrity. The ruling sends a strong message that unlawful sewage discharge into public water bodies will not be treated lightly and can invite criminal prosecution. **-BMB**

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From Stroke to Brain Tumours: The Changing Face of Neuroscience Care

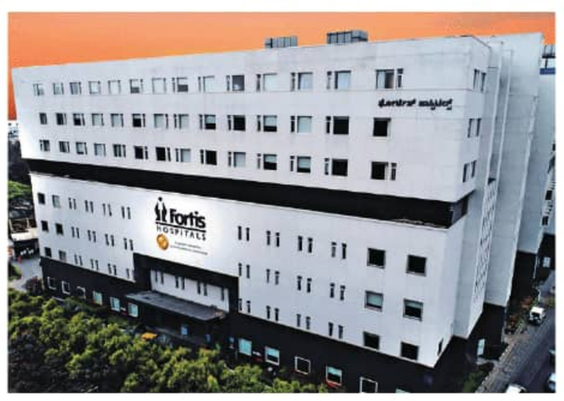
Receiving the 'Pioneering Excellence' award in Complex Brain and Spine Care marks a significant achievement for our entire team, says Dr Rajkumar Deshpande, Director of Neurosciences at Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road.

According to him, the honour underscores Fortis Hosptial's neuroscience department's sustained commitment to advanced neuroimaging, state of the art surgical infrastructure and precision driven clinical protocols in the management of complex neurological and spinal conditions. More than a recognition, he describes the award as an affirmation of rigorous standards, refined surgical expertise and a cohesive multidisciplinary framework dedicated to optimal patient outcomes.

Dr Deshpande said that at Fortis Hospital Bannerghatta Road, neurosciences is built on a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach. The hospital brings together neurosurgeons, neurologists, neuro-anaesthetists, neuro-radiologists, intensivists, rehabilitation specialists and trained nursing teams, ensuring that every patient receives coordinated care from diagnosis to recovery.

He said, "One of the key strengths of the programme is the management of complex brain tumours and skull base lesions. With advanced imaging support and high-end surgical planning, many tumours that were once considered difficult to treat can now be addressed with better safety and functional preservation. Fortis Bannerghatta Road also offers Awake Brain Surgery in select cases, particularly for tumours close to speech and movement centres. This allows surgeons to monitor critical brain functions during surgery, helping reduce the risk of neurological deficits. In select tumour cases, the centre also offers Intraoperative Radiation Therapy (IORT), where targeted radiation can be delivered during surgery for enhanced precision while protecting surrounding healthy tissue."

The hospital also provides advanced care for spine conditions including slipped discs, spinal stenosis, spinal tumours, trauma and degenerative spine disease. Minimally invasive spine surgery and precision techniques help patients recover faster and return to routine life sooner, he said by adding, "Stroke care is another critical focus area. Time is the most important factor in stroke management, and rapid diagnosis and intervention can save brain function. The neuroscience team works closely with emergency and critical care services to ensure timely evaluation and evidence-based treatment."



"Fortis Bannerghatta Road is also equipped for complex neurological emergencies and post-surgical neuro-critical care. The availability of specialised intensive care support plays a vital role in improving outcomes for patients with brain haemorrhage, traumatic brain injury, spinal injuries and complicated neurosurgical procedures", said Dr Deshpande.

Dr. Rajkumar Deshpande,
Director, Neurosciences
Fortis Hospital,
Bannerghatta road
Fortis Bannerghatta Road

In addition, rehabilitation is treated as an essential part of neurosciences care. Many neurological conditions require physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and long-term follow-up. The hospital's structured rehabilitation support helps patients regain independence and confidence after treatment.

Neurosciences is not only about technology — it is also about decision-making, timing and compassion, he said, by adding, "at Fortis Hospital Bannerghatta Road, the focus remains on delivering advanced, ethical and patient-centred neuroscience care that helps patients return to meaningful, functional lives."

For more information
Contact: 9663367253

South Bengaluru's hottest address

Kanakapura Road has become one of Bengaluru's most sought-after real estate destinations, driven by rising demand for premium residential sites and access to modern infrastructure. With the State Government including parts of Kanakapura Road in the Greater Bengaluru Plan, residential layouts along Kanakapura Road and surrounding areas are witnessing strong interest from investors and homebuyers alike. The stretch, regarded as one of the city's leading cosmopolitan corridors, has turned property investment here into a matter of prestige.

"Ongoing development projects, the availability of budget-friendly sites suited to middle-class buyers, reputed educational institutions and prominent religious centres have further strengthened its appeal. The road connects key neighbourhoods such as Jayanagar, Basavanagudi and Banashankari, while passing through prominent residential zones including JP Nagar, Kumaraswamy Layout and Anjanapura, making it a preferred investment belt," said C Kumar, a realtor.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Premium housing demand surges along Kanakapura Road amid metro expansion and rapid infrastructure growth

Over the past few years, several major infrastructure projects have boosted growth prospects in the region. "Metro expansion, highway upgrades and the Bengaluru South district plans have positioned Kanakapura Road as a promising real estate hotspot. Areas such as Harohalli, Bannerghatta Road, Konanakunte, Kaggalipura, Talaghattapura, Anjanapura and Electronic City continue to attract buyers looking for a blend of urban convenience and a greener environment. The presence of reputed IT firms, corporate offices, malls and entertainment hubs has drawn residents from across India and abroad, leading to the growth of restaurants, wellness centres, retail outlets and lifestyle spaces, all of which have contributed to steady appreciation in property values along this fast-developing corridor," added Vidya Joseph, a realtor.

–Prakash VL

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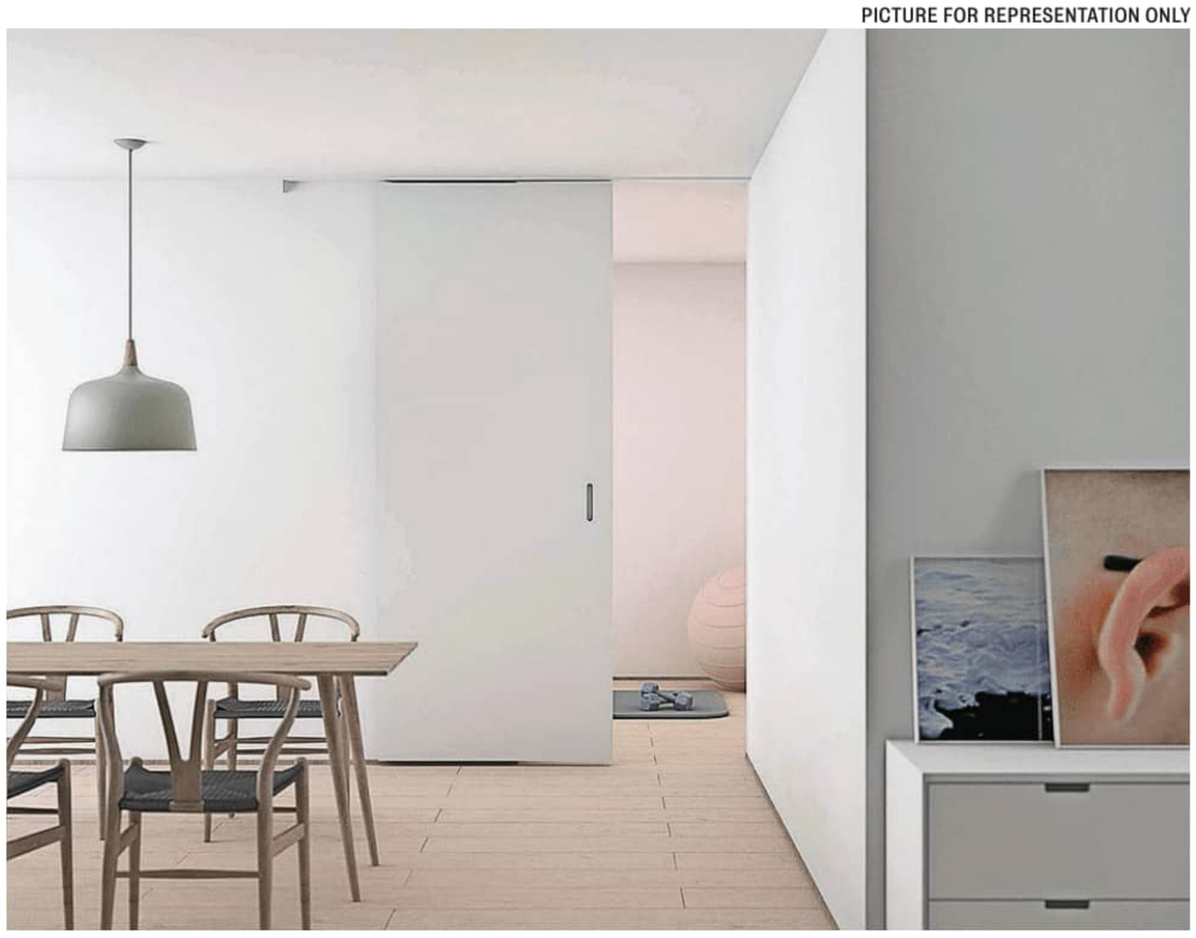

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Bengaluru has recorded a sharp 21 per cent rise in average flat sizes over the past two years, reflecting a clear shift towards larger homes across India's leading property markets. According to ANAROCK Research, the average apartment size in the city increased from 1,484 sq ft in 2023 to nearly 1,790 sq ft in 2025, with an 8 per cent jump recorded in the last year alone. This mirrors a broader national trend, with average flat sizes across the top seven cities growing by 17 per cent, from 1,420 sq ft in 2023 to about 1,656 sq ft in 2025. The growth is being led by rising demand for spacious three- and four-bedroom units, often with study rooms and enhanced amenities, as buyers continue to prioritise comfort and lifestyle upgrades despite higher property prices.

While the NCR posted the highest two-year growth of 30 per cent, driven by a surge in luxury housing supply, Bengaluru remains among the stronger-performing southern markets. Chennai saw a 24 per cent increase in average flat sizes, while Hyderabad, which has the largest average homes at 2,600 sq ft in 2025, recorded a 13 per cent rise over two years. In contrast, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region continues to have the smallest average homes at 904 sq ft, despite a 12 per cent increase, while Kolkata and Pune saw modest single-digit growth. The post-Covid period has significantly altered buyer preferences, with average home sizes across the top cities rising by 45 per cent since 2019, underscoring a sustained shift towards larger living spaces and premium housing formats.

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Cricket fans are all set to witness some incredible clashes in the two Super 8 stage league matches that begin today

SUPER CLASHES SET FOR SUPER 8 STAGE

India's players and coaches during a practice session before their match between India and South Africa, at the Narendra Modi Stadium, in Ahmedabad, on Friday

SS Shreekumar
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The stage is set for some riveting clashes in the T20 World Cup 2026 cricket tournament with the top eight teams having made the Super 8 stage as the men remain and the boys are back home.

After Australia and Oman finished their group league engagements on Friday, cricket fans will witness some incredible clashes in the two Super 8 stage league matches.

The top two qualifiers from the four groups have been divided into two groups of four teams each. They play each other once and then top two will make the semi-finals. The winners of the two groups will meet the runners-up of the opposite group in the semi-finals. The semi-final winners clash in the final for the title.

Should India top Group 1 and Pakistan finish second in Group 2, or even vice versa, the once no-handshake' drama will once again be enacted in the semi-final.

Group 1 is packed with the four teams which did not lost a single match in their league campaign. Surely, it could well be termed as the 'Group of Death'.

India, South Africa, West Indies and Zimbabwe form Group 1 of the Super 8 stage. India, South Africa and the West Indies won all four matches. The Zimbabwe vs Ireland match was rained out leaving the Africans also unbeaten by default.

England, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, all of which lost a match in the league, form Group 2 of the Supers 8 stage.

India topped Group A with eight points as they won all their four group games. Pakistan were second with six points from three wins and a defeat to India to make the Super 8 stage. USA, Netherlands and Namibia took the flight back home.

Zimbabwe made the Supers 8 stage topping Group B with seven points after defeating co-hosts Sri Lanka by six wickets to maintain their amazing run. The co-hosts logged six points and qualified ahead of Australia, Ireland and Oman.

Defeats to Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka left Australia on two points from their first three matches and needing multiple results to work in their favour for them to have any chance of reaching the Super 8s.

Australia required Zimbabwe to lose to Ireland on Tuesday, but the match was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to heavy rain and Zimbabwe secured the point required for them to book their ticket with a top-two finish in Group B.

The no-result meant that Ireland were also eliminated, ending with three points from their four matches, with Oman also failing to progress from the group.

The most shocking result was the exit of the mighty Australian team. The Baggy Greens were touted to be the main rivals to India for the title. But now they have the mortification of playing against Oman in an inconsequential fixture and complete their shockingly dismal campaign having lost to Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe as well.

The West Indies revealed the fire of old to win all four matches and top Group C with eight points. England followed them to be second with six points after three wins and a loss to the once-famous Caribbeans. Scotland, Italy and Nepal would have gained by the experience of their four outings.

South Africa also had an all-win record to top Group D with eight points while New Zealand were second with six points from three wins and a loss to South Africa. Afghanistan, UAE and Canada were the three teams to return home early enough.

Consequently, Zimbabwe are the only surprise entrants in the Super 8 stage. After defeating Sri Lanka and Australia, they richly deserve their place and could well post enough problems to their more fancied rivals.

The seven other traditional cricketing nations will miss old rivals Australia. However, the injury-ridden Australians were expected to not only remain in the tournament but even go all the way. In any case, fasten your seat belts as some nail-biting action will unfold from Feb 22 as India clash with the in-form South Africans

Super 8 Groups

Group 1
India, South Africa, West Indies, Zimbabwe.

Group 2
England, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

India's Super 8 fixtures:
India Vs South Africa, Feb 22, 2026, Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad

India Vs Zimbabwe, Feb 26, 2026, Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai

India Vs West Indies, Mar 1, 2026, Eden Gardens, Kolkata

Knock-out fixtures:
1st Semi-final
Mar 4, 2026 – Eden Gardens, Kolkata or Premadasa Stadium, Colombo

2nd Semi-final
Mar 5, 2026 – Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai.

Final
Mar 8, 2026 – Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad or Premadasa Stadium, Colombo.

(All matches start at 7.00 p.m IST and 13.30 Hrs GMT).

Today's match

New Zealand V/S Pakistan
07.00 pm

Marsh powers Australia to crushing win over Oman

Australia's captain Mitchell Marsh hits a six during the T20 World Cup cricket match between Australia and Oman in Pallekele, Sri Lanka, Friday

Australia demolished Oman by nine wickets to win the final Twenty20 World Cup group encounter in Pallekele on Friday in emphatic style, despite both teams already being eliminated from the tournament.

Chasing a modest target of 105 for victory, skipper Mitchell Marsh was in no mood to hang around and ruthlessly dispatched Oman's bowlers to all corners of the park, bringing up his half-century off just 26 balls inside the first powerplay.

Oman's Shakeel Ahmed collided with wicketkeeper Vinayak Shukla when he had Travis Head caught and bowled off a top edge for 32, but the 38-year-old spinner was so overjoyed he brought out Cristiano Ronaldo's trademark goal celebration.

But Marsh remained unbeaten on 64 with seven boundaries and four sixes to guide Australia home with 62 balls to spare, equalling the T20 World Cup record for the fastest chase of a total over 100.

Australia finished third in the group with two wins and two defeats while winless Oman propped up the table with no points.

Oman 104 (16.2)
Australia 108/1 (9.4)

Clinical bowling display

Earlier, Australia produced a clinical bowling display to dismiss Oman for 104 in 16.2 overs after winning the toss and opting to field, with Adam Zampa finishing with figures of 4-21.

Fast bowler Xavier Bartlett set the tone with a wicket off the very first ball, removing Aamir Kaleem as his delivery crashed into the stumps.

Bartlett's movement troubled the batters and he had skipper Jatinder Singh also bowled in his next over, finishing with two key powerplay strikes that put Oman on the back foot.

Oman attempted to rebuild but none of their batters converted their starts into substantial scores. Wasim Ali stood out with a gritty 32 off 33 balls, offering the only meaningful resistance as wickets fell steadily at the other end.

Australia's spinners dominated the middle overs as Oman struggled, frequently misjudging their lengths and playing down the wrong line.

Zampa claimed his fourth four-wicket haul in T20 World Cups while Glenn Maxwell, who dropped a catch in the first over, also chipped in with two wickets. **–Reuters**

Oman's Vinayak Shukla and Shakeel Ahamed collide while taking the catch of Australia's Travis Head

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Our client intends to purchase the property mentioned in the Schedule here below from its owner; **(1) Shri. Channaramaiah K. S.,** son of Late Subbarayappa, **(2) Smt. Radhamma,** wife of Shri. Channaramaiah K. S., **(3) Shri. Mruthyunjaya K. C.,** son of Shri. Channaramaiah K. S., **(4) Smt. Nandini G.,** wife of Shri. Mruthyunjaya K. C., **(5) Shri. Prajwal M.,** son of Shri. Mruthyunjaya K. C., **(6) Ms. Deeksha. M,** daughter of Shri. Mruthyunjaya K. C., **(7) Shri. Jnananidhi K. C.,** son of Shri. Channaramaiah K. S., **(8) Smt. Mamatha S,** wife of Shri. Jnananidhi K. C., **(9) Ms. Bhoomika J,** daughter of Shri. Jnananidhi K. C., **(10) Shri. Gowtham J,** son of Shri. Jnananidhi K. C., **(11) Shri. Purushotham K. C.,** son of Shri. Channaramaiah K. S., **(11a) Master Kundan P,** son of Shri. Purushotham K. C., **(11b) Kumari Shreshta P,** daughter of Shri. Purushotham K. C., (Nos. 11 (a) and (b) since minors, represented by their father and natural guardian Shri. Purushotham K. C.,) **(12) Smt. Pankaja K,** wife of Shri. Purushotham K. C. The Owners represent that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property and have good marketable, right, title and interest therein and there are no other person/s having any right or claim over the Schedule Property. The Owners represent that except the Agreement of Sale dated 16-10-2025 registered as Document No. DBP-1-09277/2025-26 of Book I, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Doddaballapura they have neither conveyed nor have entered into any other Agreement of sale / Memorandum of Understanding nor entered into any sort of arrangement with any person/s for sale/ transfer/development with respect to the Schedule Property and they have not encumbered, mortgaged, created any charge or lien on the Schedule Property in any manner and apart from them, there are no other person/s, firm or company having any sort of right, title or claim over the Schedule Property. Any person/s having objection/s or claim/s shall, with documentary evidence, lodge their objection (s) /claim(s) within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this Notice with the Under-signed failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the portion of the agricultural land bearing **Survey No. 151/5, (earlier part of Survey No. 151/3) measuring 20 guntas,** situated at **Kesthuru Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District** and is bounded on the: **East by:** Remaining portion of Survey No. 151/5, retained by the Vendors; **West by:** Property bearing Survey No. 151/1 belonging to Shri. Kempegowda; **North by:** Remaining portion of Survey No.151/5, retained by the Vendors; and **South by:** Road.

Date: 20.02.2026 Place: Bangalore

Jayanth M. Pattanshetti and Sushanth J.Pattanshetti
Advocates,
Jayanth Pattanshetti Associates
LLP102, Ground Floor,
"Rams Infantry Manor",
No. 70 Infantry Road,
Bengaluru- 560 001.
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I Gireesha G T R/o Goottikere village yediyur hobli Kunigal Tumakuru-42 Have changed my name to Girish Goottikere Thimmegowda

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GUJARAT/RAJASTHAN* 12/16*/25 DAYS MAR: 20
KASHMIR WITH TULIP GARDEN 6 DAYS MAR: 24, APR: 8
AMRITSAR VAISHNODEVI SRINAGAR 16 DAYS MAR: 20, 24 APR: 9, 16, 23 MAY: 5, 12, 26
OMKARESHWAR MAHAKALESHWAR 8 DAYS MAR: 9, 17 APR: 7
PURI KONARK/DARJEELING GANGTOK* 6/7* MAR: 17, 31, APR: 7, 13*, 14, 20*, 21
NEPAL WITH MUKHINATH 13 DAYS MAR: 5 APR: 2, 12, 23
KASHI GAYA PRAYAG/HARIDWAR* 11/16* DAYS
APR: 4*, 11, 17*, 20*, 26, 27* MAY: 1, 3*, 7, 13*, 17, 25
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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I.PRAKASHA AR R/o No 307 Shyam Ambika apartments, Netravati tent Road Yelachenahalli Bengalore 560078 have changed My name from Prakasha AR to Prakash AR

I, Sanjukta Mitra W/o Jaideep Mitra R/o K720, Tirumala Sarovar Apts,4th Zone, Hosur Rd Singasandra B'luru-560068 have changed my name to Sanjukta Sinha for all purposes

I, Jain Sampathraj Babulalji S/O, Babulal Jain R/o #38 17th Main Behind Club Road Jain Temple Vijayanagar Bangaluru 560040 have changed my name to Sampathraj Jain for all purposes.

I B.Indira D/O, B.Rajender R/o 101, Daffodil Nest, 4th Main 4th Cross, Talakaveri Layout Basavanagar Bengaluru Karnataka. have changed my name to E.Indira after marriage.

I, SURYA SURESHKUMAR MANGALATH # F/106, Balaji Eternal Bliss, Ambedkar Nagar Road, Vijay Nagar, Whitefield, Bangalore - 560066. Have changed my name to SURYASREENATH MADAPATTU vide affidavit dated: 20/2/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, IMRAN AHMAD residing at # Serwell Trepizum, Flat No A-0, Ground Floor 3/2 Mosque Road Cross, Frazer Town, Pulikeshinagar Bengaluru – 560005. I have changed my name to IMRAN AHMAD BHAT vide affidavit dated 20/02/2026 sworn before notary Leela Bengaluru

I, Mariya Jakalin W/o Samson Babu Aruldas R/o No 133/156,GF,31st B Cross,Thilak Nagar,Jayanagar 560041 KA have changed my name to Mariya Jacqulin Arputham.

I, JAMUNA S W/o Venu Madav, R/O No. 66, 3rd main road, Adugodi and Society Colony, Bangalore - 560030 have changed my name from JAMUNA VENUMADAV To JAMUNA S.

I, Dharini Balasubramanian R/o,1B, 604 Tree By Provident, 2nd Main, Syndicate Bank Lyt, Herohalli, Bangalore 560091 have changed my name to Dharini Sriram. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I Gangabai Jethanand Jethani W/O, Jethanand (jetho) Khubchand Jethani R/o No 409, Priyadarshini Apartments, 13th Cross, 2nd Stage, Near New Shanti Sagar Hotel, Indiranagar, Bengaluru - 560038 have changed my name to Ganga Jethani.

I Niranjana Ramachandra Yelluru S/o Yelluru Ramachandra Bhat, residing at, No-9,Hamsa Enclave,Flat no SF-201,1st Main,RR Layout, Jnanajyothi Nagar,Nagadeva - nahalli, Bengaluru 560056, have changed my name to Niranjan Yelluru for all purposes.

I, Sindhu D, W/o Sushil Ravindranath R/o Tower-15 303, Shriram Chirping Woods Villaments,Shubh enclave, Harlur road, Bengaluru, have changed my name to Sindhu Sushil, vide affidavit dated 17-2-2026 sworn before notary Deepa.M, Bengaluru.

I, Daarshanik Thirupthihalli Srinivas R/o No.1038, 8th block Sir M V layout, Giddakonenahalli, Bengaluru 560091 have changed my name to Daarshanik Thimmaiah Srinivas. Affidavit Dt.06/02/2026 Notary H R Karunakara, Bengaluru

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High lead in 19 out of 72 vegetable samples tested

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as 1.75mg/kg, which exceeds the FSSAI-approved limit of 0.1mg/kg. Similarly, while the permissible limit of lead in leafy green vegetables is 0.3 mg/kg, it was found to be as high as 1.68mg/kg in some markets. In brinjal from some markets, the level of lead is about to touch 2mg/kg when the permissible limit is 0.1mg/kg.

Bitter gourd sample from Kolar has the level reaching 1.9mg/kg against the permissible levels of 0.1. Contaminated vegetable samples were from vegetable markets in Kempalingana Halli in Nelamangala, Siddaiah Puranik Road in Rajajinagara, APMC Market in Kolar, and HOPCOMS in Mahalaxmi layout.

The samples were collected during February and September last year from selected agricultural fields in Nelamangala, Kolar, and Chikkaballapur regions, as well as local market including APMC and HOPCOMS in Nelamangala, Bengaluru, and Kolar.

The veggies were analysed for the presence of 11 heavy metals (Antimony, Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Lead, Mercury, Methyl Mercury, Nickel, Selenium, and Tin), 3 minerals (Iron, Zinc, Manganese), and 230 pesticide residues listed in Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins, and Residues) Regulations, 2011.

Based on the results, the committee has recommended finding out the possible source of the presence of lead in the vegetable samples.

The issue of contaminated vegetables in Bengaluru was highlighted by a news report in 2013, which referred to a study carried out by the Environment Management Policy Research Institute (EMPRI). Following the report, NGT registered a suo motu case.

In its study, EMPRI had analysed 400 samples of 10 different vegetables and had suggested that the level of heavy metal contamination in vegetables exceeded the permissible limit set by the Food and Agriculture Organisation. The concentration of iron and cadmium in coriander and spinach, and nickel in vegetables were found to be above the permissible limit. Following this, National Green Tribunal (NGT) sent notices to CPCB, KSPCB, and EMPRI and instructed CPCB to analyse vegetable samples in Bengaluru.

To carry out the analysis, CPCB constituted a committee, comprising members from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), ICAR Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS)-Bhopal, and the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS).

The vegetable samples were then collected in February and September 2025 and were analyzed for the presence of heavy metals and pesticide residues.

Pesticide residue

All 72 samples were also tested for pesticide residues, and as many as 18 pesticide residues were detected in 10 different samples. The pesticides used by the farmers correlated with pesticide residues found in concentrations higher than the prescribed limits in capsicum, chilli bajji, cucumber, and ginger.

Minor soil contamination

The committee also collected 26 soil samples from the agricultural fields of Kolar, Chikkaballapura, and Nelamangala. Except for Selenium, the concentration of other heavy metals in the soil samples was within the range normally observed in the case of soils of an unpolluted area. The concentration of lead in soil samples collected from Kolar and Chikkaballapura regions was found to be higher than that observed in the Nelamangala region.

Polluted groundwater

Groundwater samples were collected from the same agricultural fields where vegetables were sampled, and one treated wastewater sample was collected at the KC valley entry point in Uddappanahalli. The samples were tested for heavy metal parameters and pesticide residues. The analysis results indicate presence of zinc, iron, manganese, nickel, and chromium above permissible limits in some samples.

HEALTH TIP: Mix glycerine and rosewater, apply for hydration, soothe irritation, then rinse for radiant skin glow

Use SPF lip balm hourly, remove makeup gently, hydrate lips with cream, and drink plenty of water

BangaloreMirror | 13
Saturday, February 21, 2026
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Focus on the road

Simulator study finds listening and tasks impair drivers more than visual distractions

In Australia, around 16 per cent of major road accidents (such as multi-vehicle crashes and pedestrian collisions) involve distracted driving.

Distracted driving happens when people shift their attention from the primary task of driving to a secondary task such as using a mobile phone or eating.

We recently examined the specific effects of different distraction types on driving performance — and discovered some carried a greater risk than others.

What we studied

Driving distractions that cause accidents can happen for any of these reasons: auditory distractions, such as listening to music, having a conversation, or hearing a baby cry; visual distractions, such as looking at a navigator or passengers; cognitive distractions such as thinking, daydreaming, or future planning; behavioural distractions such as texting, calling, fixing a mirror, or eating/drinking.

In our study, we used a driving simulator in a controlled laboratory setting to manipulate distraction conditions and assess their impact on driving.

The simulator had three screens with nearly 180° peripheral vision in a driving scenario.

We distracted participants in four ways. We called their mobile phone while they were driving (auditory distraction); asked them to locate a specific key on a computer keyboard located in front of them, part of the driving simulator (visual distraction, as drivers needed to look at the key by moving their eyes from the road on the screen); engaged them in a conversation (cognitive distraction); and instructed them to move a cup from one side of their seat to the other (behavioural distraction).

We studied 103 Australian drivers aged 16–82 in the Australian Capital Territory, using a road deviation measure to reflect the "sway" of the vehicle.

How did these distractions impact driving?

Participants' driving was worse when they were involved in listening (auditory distraction) and when they were asked to do a task (behavioural distraction) compared with cognitive and visual distractions.

The reason is likely that our brains struggle to concentrate on driving and deal with these distractions at the same time, increasing the risk of mistakes on the road.

The results surprised us. Before the study, we assumed visual distractions would impact drivers the most, but that was not the case.

A possible explanation is that when drivers intentionally look away from the road, they mentally predict what will likely take place during the next few seconds — an internal decision.

That is not the case for most auditory distractions — these are largely created by others and often happen unexpectedly, like a baby crying or hearing a favourite song on the radio. Drivers may not be mentally prepared for this type of distraction.

Audio distractions can happen at any time, even in complex driving moments such as high traffic or merging. Drivers are less likely to take their eyes off the road in these situations.

It must be noted these four distractions can be interrelated. A phone ringing is mainly auditory but also triggers cognitive responses, and drivers may look at the phone, making it visual.

In our study, we used verbal conversations as a measure of cognitive distractions, but drivers can also be distracted by thinking about problems or being in a hurry.

Our study supports previous research investigating in-vehicle distractions.

Mobile phone usage is the big one — a United States study found using a phone while driving increases the chances of a collision by up to four times.

Australian research found non-technology-based activities such as eating, drinking, smoking, and interacting with passengers also increase crash risk.

So, how do we make our roads safer?

Our findings suggest key takeaways for drivers, educators, government bodies, and road safety organisations.

Drivers need to be aware of the auditory and behavioural distractions they face and their impact on safety. Many people don't know which distractions negatively influence their driving the most.

While many drivers talk with passengers, it can affect their locus of control and behaviour. They need to be mindful of noise levels and avoid arguments or noisy conversations.

Podcasts and audiobooks can have a similar effect on driving performance.

Inside-vehicle distractions are increasing with the growth of technologies such as smartphones, smartwatches, and navigation systems. Drivers must be aware of how to use (or not use) these gadgets safely.

Road safety organisations and governments must develop promotions highlighting inside-vehicle distractions, particularly auditory and behavioural types, as campaigns often focus only on external distractions like poor weather, road conditions, and pedestrian behaviour.

By Johra Kayeser Fatima, Jeroen van Boxtel, Ram Subramanian and Somayeh Bahmannia, University of Canberra, The Conversation

MIRRORLIGHTS

Age, sex, and genes shape how immune systems target viruses differently

Age plays a significant role in shaping how the human immune system produces antibodies in response to viral infections, with different antibodies increasing or decreasing over time depending on which viral components they target, according to new research. Scientists, including a team from the Institute Pasteur at France's National Centre for Scientific Research, found that individuals infected by the same virus can generate antibodies that focus on different parts of the pathogen.

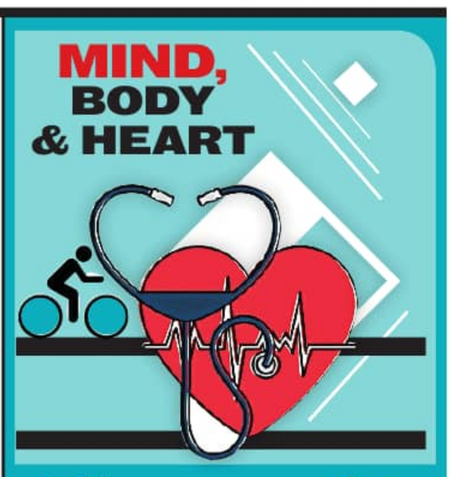
The study also highlights that biological sex and host genetics influence not only the number of antibodies produced but also the specific viral regions they recognise. Published in Nature Immunology, the findings could help guide the development of more personalised treatments based on an individual's immune profile.

Researchers analysed data from the Milieu Interieur study, launched 15 years ago to understand how genetics and environmental factors shape immunity. The study involved 1,000 healthy participants whose socio-economic background, lifestyle, medical history and biological markers were examined. The authors found that age, sex and continent of birth significantly influence both the viruses targeted and the viral epitopes recognised by antibodies.

The team also identified links between antibodies against 34 viruses and genetic variants at several immune-related loci, some associated with higher autoimmune disease risk. More than half of the antibody repertoire was found to vary with age. For influenza strains H1N1 and H3N2, younger adults' antibodies mainly targeted the rapidly evolving hemagglutinin surface protein, while older individuals' antibodies focused on the more stable stalk region.

Women produced more antibodies against hemagglutinin, whereas men tended to target other viral proteins. Geography shapes antibodies and vaccines.

—PTI



All you need to know about...

Frizz remedy

If you have dry, frizzy, or lifeless hair, coconut milk can help revive it. Rich in vitamins, minerals, and fatty acids, it works well with natural ingredients like yogurt, egg, olive oil, castor oil, and avocado to nourish, hydrate, and improve hair texture, leaving it smoother and healthier.

Coconut milk and yogurt
For bouncy hair, mix half a cup of coconut milk with two tablespoons of plain yogurt. This blend strengthens strands and helps repair damage thanks to protein and lactic acid. Apply evenly to scalp and hair, leave for 30 minutes, then rinse with lukewarm water for smoother results.

Coconut milk and egg
Ideal for weak, brittle hair, combine half a cup of coconut milk with one whisked egg. The protein-rich mask nourishes roots and supports scalp health. Massage gently, leave for 20–30 minutes, then rinse with cool or lukewarm water.

Coconut milk and olive oil
Mix half a cup of coconut milk with two tablespoons of olive oil to deeply moisturize and repair dryness. Warm slightly, apply generously, leave for 30 minutes, then rinse to reveal softer hair.

Coconut milk and castor oil
Blend half a cup of coconut milk with one tablespoon of castor oil to nourish thin, weak hair. Massage into the scalp, leave for 45 minutes, then rinse for stronger strands.

Coconut milk and avocado
Mix half a cup of coconut milk with mashed avocado for intense hydration. Apply thoroughly, leave 30–40 minutes, then rinse for soft, manageable hair.

—Femina

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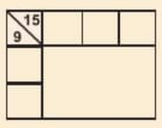
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

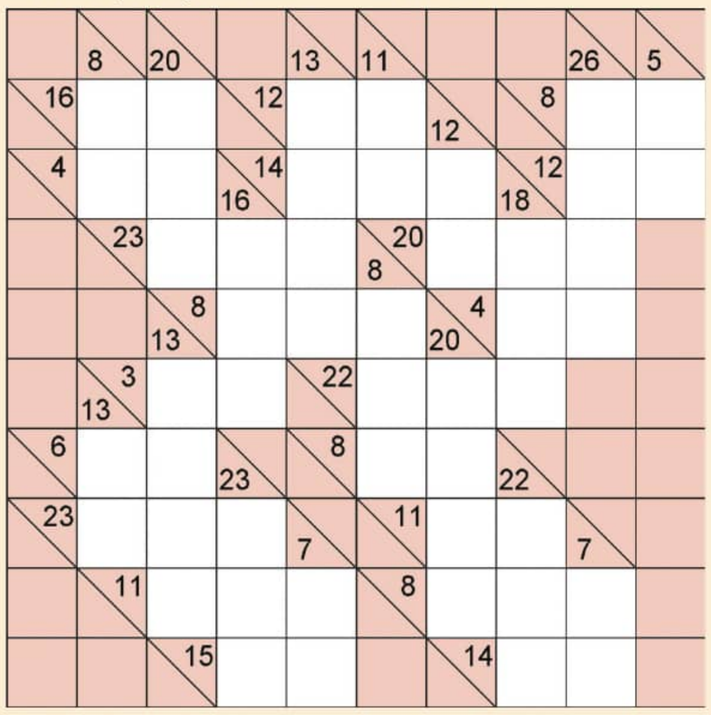
[(1/2) ÷ (1/4)+ 0.75 + 0.25] = ?

Kakuro

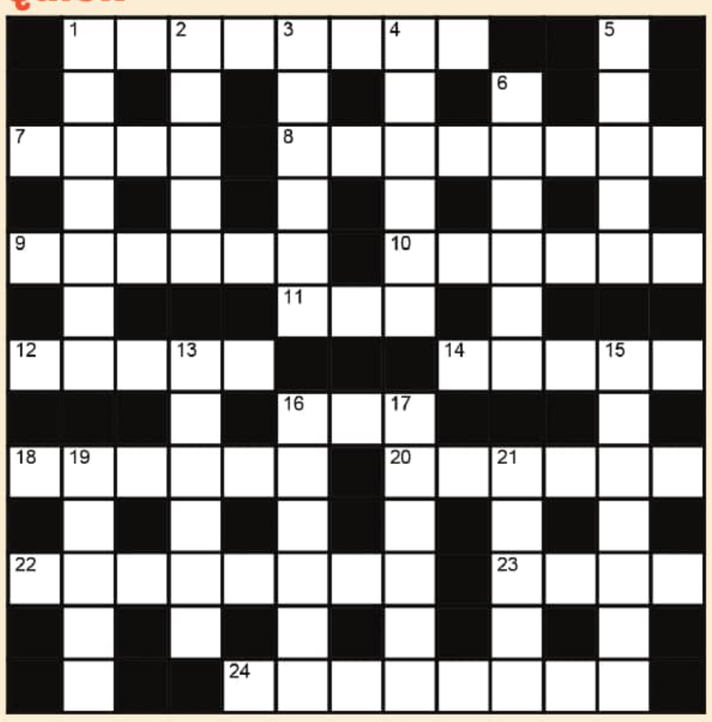
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Popular word-building board game (8)
7 Little devils! (4)
8 Stress (8)
9 Frolicsome (6)
10 Fur-bearing aquatic mammals (6)
11 Psychic power (3)
12 Inquired of (5)
14 Lazy person (5)
16 Norwegian rug (3)
18 Another word for "kabbadi" (2,2,2)
20 Household; domestic establishment (6)
22 Damage evaluator (8)
23 Thought (4)
24 Hype (8)

DOWN

1 This cathedral in Bangalore is over 200 years old (2,5)
2 Corrodes or oxidises? (5)
3 Cheerio (3-3)
4 A compact portable computer (6)
5 Willow (5)
6 Used gum or glue or resin? (6)
13 Dripped, leaked or secreted (6)
15 He painted scenes of Toledo (2,5)
16 World's largest country (6)
17 Unethical (6)
19 Overturned (5)
21 Cry of horse (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS A

Y TPSPFAYI DF YF OQEM Y TXDFJL YF YLV FOYII, EJLCDLPS FTYEP.

Linemaro

I wish I was an Ion so I could form an exothermic bond with you

Mindchow

A liberal man is too broad-minded to take his own side in a quarrel

Joke of the day

Life: A span of time of which the first half is ruined by our parents and the second half by our children

Loop

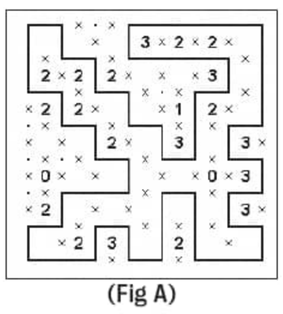
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

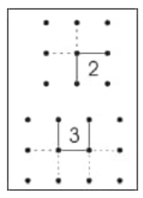
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

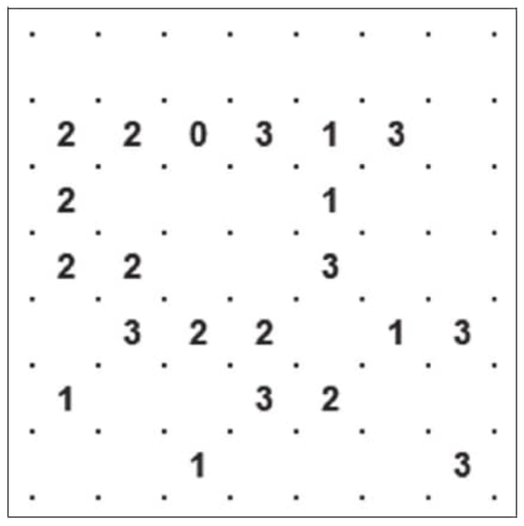
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



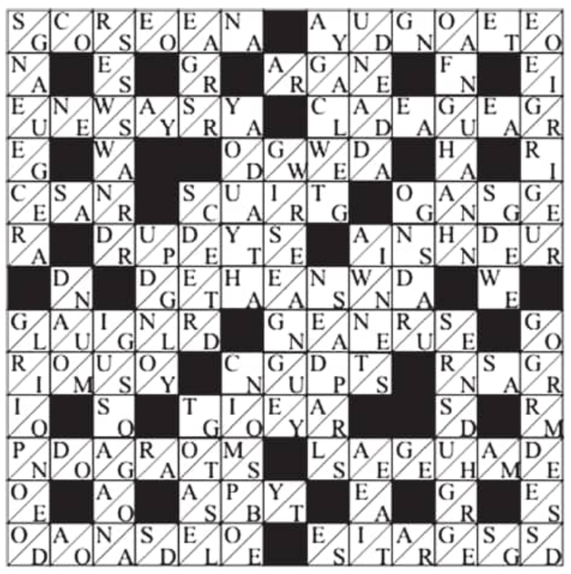
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9			D	

ACROSS

1 Sates; 6 Rates;
7 Raita; 8 GRE eg.;
9 Re Day

DOWN

1 Tresa; 2 Gates;
3 Is Aga; 4 Dr Ree;
5 A tyre

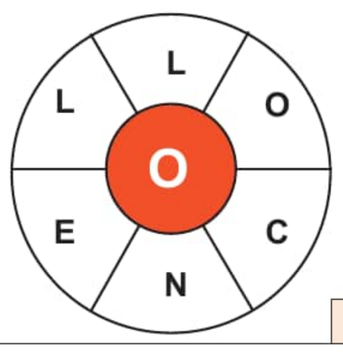
Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing?

3	4	7	2	9	3
2	2	1	9	1	6
5	6	9	2	0	9

1	7	8	6	3	2
4	3	2	8	1	1
6	1	1	4	4	

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

4			6			2		
		7			1		3	6
				2		5		7
			8			1	5	
	3			6			4	
	4	8			3			
8		1		5				
7	2		9			3		
		3			6			4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 13

1 3 4 5

Medium = 22

1 5 8 8

Hard = 32

2 4 4 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

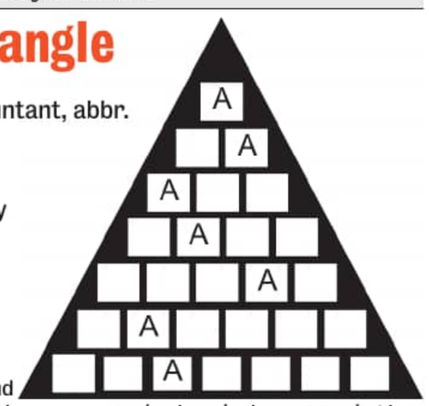
Differences: 1. Book is added. 2. Crosswalk line is missing. 3. Cap is different. 4. Button is added to boy's coat. 5. Cuff is added to girl's sleeve. 6. Window is moved.

Riddler

Unscramble the words below and follow the instructions in parentheses.
1. REDE (Take the 3rd letter)
2. SAVEREB (Take the 4th letter)
3. HERSWS (Take the 5th letter)
4. OSINB (Take the 4th letter)
5. SOMEO (Take the 4th letter)
6. LETANPOE (Take the 5th letter)
Now unscramble the letters you got to find your answer.

Alpha triangle

1 Blood gr.
2 Chartered Accountant, abbr.
3 Serve perfectly
4 Ceremonial staff
5 Dairy topping
6 A slight convexity
7 Judge's room

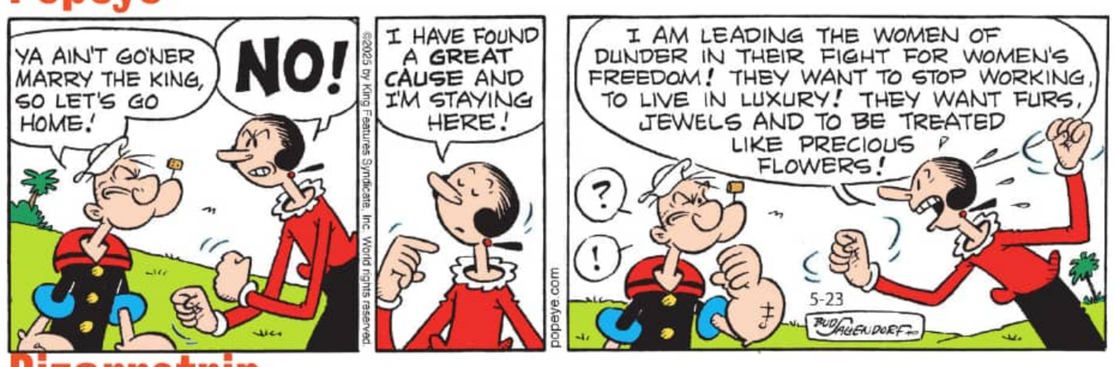


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

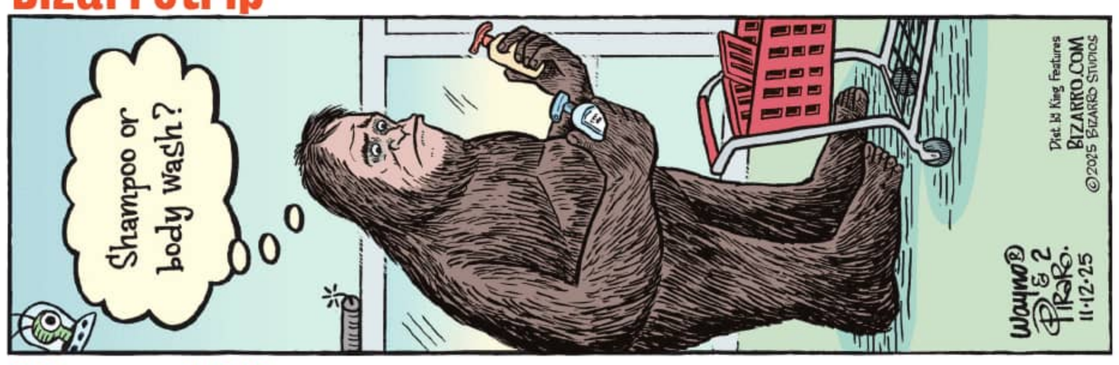
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Communication is key to your professional and personal success this year. Career advancement relies on your ability to persuade and inspire others. Romance is lively, filled with engaging conversations and short trips. Your home life is active and social. Travel for education or workshops broadens your horizons. Financial opportunities arise through local community connections and clever networking.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

A surge of creative energy helps you solve problems today. Approach challenges with a fresh perspective. Your enthusiasm is contagious, making it a great day for team projects and collaborative.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Comfort and relaxation are your priorities today. Take time to enjoy the simple pleasures of life. Nurturing your home environment brings a sense of security and great peace of mind.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Intellectual pursuits bring you great satisfaction today. Engage in learning or stimulating debate. Your quick wit helps you navigate complex information, leading to valuable insights and exciting new career possibilities.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Emotional clarity helps you move forward with confidence today. Trust your feelings and express them honestly. This authenticity strengthens your bonds with loved ones and brings a sense of.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Your charisma attracts positive attention today. Use this influence to advocate for your ideas. Your warmth and generosity make a lasting impression on everyone you encounter during your busy day.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Practical planning leads to successful outcomes today. Focus on the details of your projects. Your hard work is noticed by superiors, paving the way for future rewards and professional advancement.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Today is perfect for finding balance in your daily routine. Prioritise both work and self-care. This equilibrium ensures you stay energized and ready to handle any task with total grace.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Your focus is sharp, allowing you to uncover new opportunities. Stay observant and trust your instincts. Your dedicated efforts will lead to significant progress in your personal and professional life.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Adventure and discovery are highlighted for you today. Explore new places or ideas with curiosity. Your open-hearted approach leads to wonderful experiences that broaden your perspective and bring great.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Stability and discipline bring you peace of mind today. Stick to your schedule and complete your tasks. Your reliability is appreciated by others, fostering a supportive and very productive environment.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

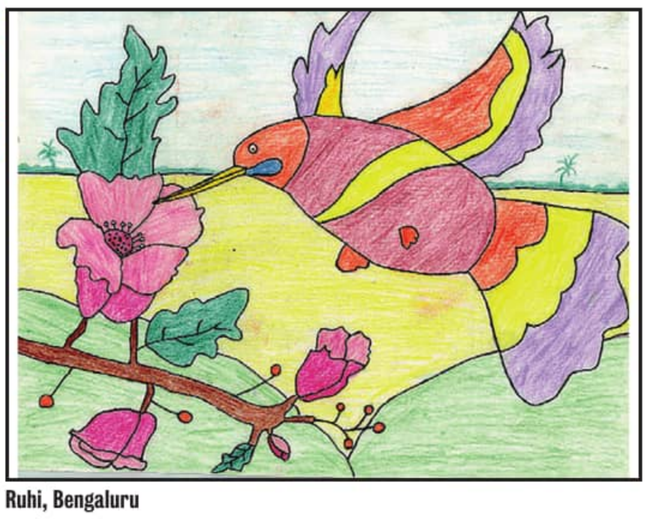
Socializing brings inspiration and new ideas today. Connect with friends and like-minded individuals. These interactions fuel your creativity and help you see the world from a very exciting perspective today.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

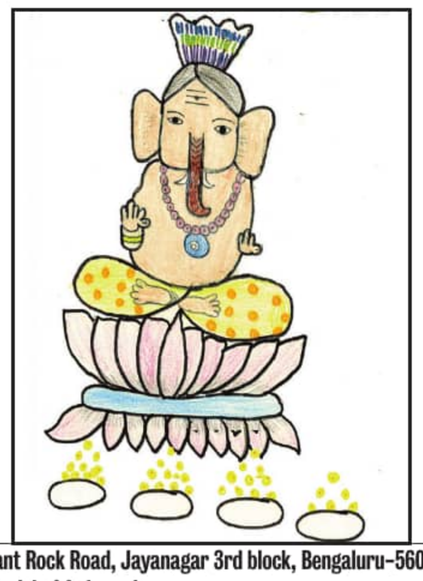
Compassion for yourself leads to inner healing today. Practice self-care and listen to your heart. This nurturing approach provides the emotional strength needed to pursue your dreams with total confidence.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Ruhi, Bengaluru



Amrutha, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

2 + 0.75 + 0.25 = 2+1 = 3

RIDDLER

1. DEER, E 2. BEAVERS, V 3. SHREWS, W 4. BISON, O 5. MOOSE, S 6. ANTELOPE, L EVWOSL unscrambles to become WOLVES. Wolves have been known to hunt deer, beavers, shrews, bison, moose, and antelope, among other things.

BULL'S EYE

cello, clone, colon, COLONEL, cone, cool, coon, loco, lone, loon, once

FAST FIVE

A	S	S	E	T
S	T	A	R	E
T	A	I	R	A
E	G	G	E	R
R	E	A	D	Y

STRIKE OUT

S	C	R	E	E	N	■	A	D	N	A	T	E	■	■
A	■	E	■	R	■	A	G	E	■	F	■	E	■	■
G	A	■	O	W	E	D	■	H	■	I	■	■	■	■
U	N	W	A	R	Y	■	L	A	G	E	R	■	■	■
E	A	R	■	S	U	I	T	■	G	A	G	E	■	■
R	■	■	D	■	■	■	■	I	■	N	■	■	■	■
D	A	N	D	L	E	■	S	T	R	E	S	S	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	B	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	T	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	E	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

3. In each grid, add the top 6-digit number to the middle number to give the bottom result.

QUOTE UNCODE

A pedestal is as much a prison as any small, confined space.

SUDOKU

4	8	5	6	3	7	2	9	1
2	9	7	5	8	1	4	3	6
3	1	6	4	2	9	5	8	7
6	7	9	8	4	2	1	5	3
1	3	2	7	6	5	9	4	8
5	4	8	1	9	3	6	7	2
8	6	1	3	5	4	7	2	9
7	2	4	9	1	8	3	6	5
9	5	3	2	7	6	8	1	4

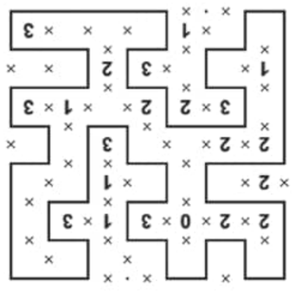
ALPHA TRIANGLE

A, CA, Ace, Mace, Cream, Camber, Chamber.

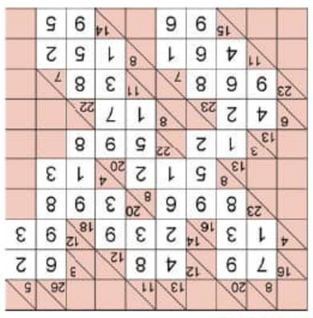
GO FIGURE

Easy
4 + 5 + 3 + 1 = 13
Medium
5 + 8 + 8 + 1 = 22
Hard
5 x 4 – 4 x 2 = 32

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Anti-troll mantra
Pop star Rita Ora says she recites mantras to herself in the mirror every day about ignoring online trolls

Global saree moment

Priyanka Chopra redefines saree glamour with bold couture statement at global premiere event

Priyanka Chopra once again demonstrated effortless command over fashion, presenting traditional saree with striking modern interpretation at premiere of her upcoming film The Bluff. Global icon shared photographs on social media, capturing poised moments from red carpet appearance. Ensemble reflected confidence, elegance, and cultural pride, reinforcing her reputation for blending heritage with contemporary couture. Appearance also highlighted expanding global appreciation for Indian design, positioning saree as versatile statement within international fashion conversations.

She further noted simplicity of piece carried quiet authority through precise tailoring and thoughtful construction. Bright yellow shade reflected vibrancy associated with India's diverse artistic palette, reinforcing emotional and cultural symbolism behind look. Statement underscored how Indian heritage continues transforming while retaining authenticity, influencing designers, audiences, and global fashion industries alike.

Story unfolds during late nineteenth century, following her character's dangerous journey protecting her child against relentless threats. Performance promises emotional intensity, physical endurance, and layered storytelling, expanding her already diverse cinematic portfolio. Film also features Temuera Morrison, Ismael Cruz Córdova, Safia Oakley-Green, Zach Morris, David Field, and Vedanten Naidoo in significant roles. Scheduled for release on February 25, 2026, project continues generating anticipation among audiences worldwide. Her premiere appearance successfully merged cinema, fashion, and heritage, reaffirming enduring influence of Indian aesthetics on global creative stage. Moment celebrated timeless saree while redefining modern glamour for international audiences everywhere with confidence and elegance today.

—Etimes

Epic Shivaji look revealed

Riteish Deshmukh has unveiled the powerful first look of his upcoming film Raja Shivaji, in which he portrays the legendary Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The much-anticipated film's first poster was released on the occasion of Shiv Jayanti 2026, generating excitement among fans and cinema lovers. The striking image shows Riteish embodying the Maratha ruler with a regal and intense presence, reflecting the strength and legacy of the iconic warrior king. The film marks a significant project, as Riteish not only plays the lead role but also directs the film. The film has been shot in both Marathi and Hindi and will also release in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada, making it a major pan-India production. The makers have scheduled the release of Raja Shivaji on May 1, 2026, coinciding with Maharashtra Day, adding symbolic importance to the film's launch.

—ETimes

Kanye wealth mystery

The net worth of rapper Kanye West, now legally known as Ye, has sparked widespread debate, with conflicting estimates about his financial standing. According to Forbes, his current net worth is around $400 million after losing several high-profile partnerships. However, Ye has disputed this figure, claiming his fortune is significantly higher due to his music catalog and business ventures. A few years ago, Ye was widely considered a billionaire, with estimates placing his wealth at nearly $2 billion. His financial position changed dramatically after major brands like Adidas and Gap ended their partnerships following his controversial public remarks. The Adidas deal alone was reportedly valued at $1.5 billion, and its loss had a major impact on his overall wealth.

His assets also include real estate, cash reserves, and a reported 5 percent stake in Skims, founded by Kim Kardashian.

Meanwhile, Ye is set to perform in India for the first time at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on March 29, 2026. Despite conflicting estimates, Ye remains one of music's wealthiest and most influential global figures today.

—ETimes

Katrina flaunts cute cuddlies

Katrina Kaif recently delighted fans by sharing a heartwarming glimpse of a thoughtful gift she received from Alia Bhatt for her baby boy, Vihaan. Katrina took to Alia has previously sent similar hampers to several celebrities, including Karan Johar, Kiara Advani, and Parineeti Chopra, continuing her tradition of sharing thoughtful gifts with friends in the film industry. Meanwhile, Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif were earlier expected to collaborate on the film Jee Le Zaraa, alongside Priyanka Chopra. The women-centric road trip film, announced in 2021, had faced delays due to scheduling challenges. Katrina's post highlighted the warm bond between the actors and showcased Alia's continued efforts to share meaningful gifts through her brand. **—Etimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Dark secrets unfold

Kannada film Rakshasa was made two decades ago with Dr Shiva Rajkumar in the lead. Now, Rakshasa, a first-of-its-kind web series rooted in North Karnataka, will stream on ZEE5 from February 20. Filmmaker Tharun Sudhir, known for Kaatera, Roberrt, and Chowka, has supported the project under the Kreatiivez banner, while it is directed by Suhan Prasad. He added series features eighty-nine characters, with eighty-three belonging to North Karnataka, reflecting authentic culture and storytelling depth.

He noted ZEE5 launched its first web series in February 2025 and gained valuable experience. He added platform plans to expand with fiction and non-fiction series soon. Rakshasa also stars Avinash, Malavika Appanna, and Abhijith. This marks significant milestone for regional storytelling, bringing North Karnataka's culture, dialects, landscapes, and characters to wider digital audiences across platforms worldwide streaming viewers today.

Nagabandham unleashed

The teaser of multilingual film Nagabandham was unveiled by actor Mahesh Babu on Maha Shivaratri, creating strong anticipation among fans. The film stars Virat Karrna in the lead, alongside Naba Natesh and Iswarya Menon, who play pivotal roles in this mythological action drama. Divine manifestation of Lord Shiva adds spiritual intensity, enhancing larger-than-life narrative. Teaser highlights grand scale, rich production design, and immersive visual effects, promising spectacular cinematic experience. Art director Ashok Kumar ensures authentic and visually appealing settings throughout.

Producers Kishore Annapureddy and Nishitha Nagireddy have mounted project on lavish scale, without compromising quality. Nagabandham is scheduled for nationwide summer release, raising expectations among audiences eagerly awaiting this epic cinematic spectacle.

Film also features Mahesh Manjrekar, Jagapathi Babu, Rishabh Swahney, and Garuda Ram in significant supporting roles across diverse powerful character arcs and narratives.